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Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 7th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 11 October 2010, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Chipaziwa ..... (Zimbabwe)
later: Mr. Flisiuk ..... (Poland)
later: Mr. Chipaziwa ..... (Zimbabwe)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.06 a.m.

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1. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that when General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) was adopted in 1960, all of the CARICOM member States had been listed as Non-Self-Governing Territories. Many of them had since achieved decolonization through the active support of the United Nations, however, six of the remaining 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories were members of CARICOM. Their non-self-governing status constituted an obstacle to regional integration of the Caribbean, making decolonization an urgent priority.

2. As the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism drew to an end, CARICOM was deeply concerned that although some internal reforms had been enacted in several Non-Self-Governing Territories, little progress had been made in actual decolonization. CARICOM supported the designation of a Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, but believed that it was important to identify what had prevented the United Nations from achieving the established targets; the challenges included an information deficit on decolonization, compounded by a lack of analysis on the constitutional, political and economic situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as a limited high-level focus on the decolonization agenda. The annual endorsements of Member States for the principles of self-determination and decolonization were not sufficient without action on the corresponding mandates. The Third Decade presented an opportunity to take concrete steps, including full implementation of all relevant resolutions.

3. CARICOM noted with deep regret the regressive steps recently undertaken in the Turks and Caicos Islands, which included decisions by the administering Power to dissolve the Government and legislature, postpone the elections scheduled for 2011, suspend the right to trial by jury and replace the elected Government with direct rule. The imposition of direct rule was an obstacle to the development of good governance, including improved fiscal and administrative management in the Territory, which could not be achieved by denying the inalienable right of the people of Turks and Caicos to shape their own future. He called for direct rule to be replaced by self rule and for a return to democracy in the Turks and Caicos Islands, which was an associate member of CARICOM.

4. CARICOM maintained its principled support for the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination; it commended the work of the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Western Sahara, which had resulted in the re-establishment of dialogue between the parties to the dispute, and urged the quick resumption of family visits by air and the commencement of family visits by land. It hoped that the upcoming informal talks would lead to more substantive negotiations with the objective of achieving a lasting and mutually acceptable solution. CARICOM supported the call to the parties, in Security Council resolution 1920 (2010), to continue negotiations without preconditions and in good faith, with a view to achieving a solution which would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

5. **Ms. Ojiambo** (Kenya) stressed the importance of establishing achievable benchmarks for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. She encouraged the Special Committee on decolonization to pursue genuine dialogue aimed at finding fresh, concrete and more creative ways to

eradicate colonialism. The administering Powers must cooperate by ensuring that United Nations visiting and special missions to the Territories received the necessary assistance and support, and by regularly transmitting information on conditions in the Territories for which they were responsible, taking into consideration their obligation to promote the socio-economic and educational advancement of the peoples of those Territories and to protect their natural resources. She also urged the administering Powers to fully implement the decisions and resolutions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization concerning the restitution of cultural property to the rightful owners still living under colonial occupation.

6. On the question of Western Sahara, Kenya supported continued negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General, taking into account the efforts made since 2006 and recent developments. That was the only way to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable solution.

7. **Mr. Mahant** (India) said that the fact that the United Nations continued to grapple with the vestiges of colonialism after 65 years reflected poorly on all Member States. As the international community marked the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and as the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism came to an end, there was a need to assess the progress achieved and review the methods followed with a view to attaining the remaining goals as a matter of urgency. It was critical to ascertain the political aspirations of the people in each Territory and to take into account the stage of development of each Territory. It was encouraging that many of the Territories had formed functional institutions that could thrive on their own. The administering Powers must work with the Special Committee in a spirit of cooperation and flexibility.

8. His delegation welcomed the Special Committee's efforts to disseminate information on legitimate political options available to the people in the Territories. The Pacific Regional Seminar held in New Caledonia in May 2009 was a step in the right direction. India also took note of the recommendations made by the Special Committee in its report to the General Assembly (A/65/23), including the recommendation on the launching of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

9. India's poverty eradication programmes, such as the Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee scheme, were aimed at ensuring inclusive growth so that the benefits of development would reach every section of society and the residual vestiges of colonialism, which exacerbated societal divisions and disadvantage, would be eliminated.

10. The State of Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India and the people of Jammu and Kashmir had regularly exercised their franchise in elections conducted in a free and fair manner.

11. **Mr. Shalgham** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that although more than two thirds of Member States had achieved independence since the establishment of the United Nations, millions of people still suffered under foreign occupation or colonialism. In particular, the Palestinian people continued to suffer under Zionist colonialism, which was the worst form of the phenomenon. Palestinians living under occupation faced house demolitions, land confiscation and ethnic cleansing as Zionist settlement construction continued unabated.

12. The international community must stand firm against foreign troops being stationed in the territory of another country. That constituted a new form of colonialism. Other forms of colonialism that must be immediately brought to an end included the imposition of cultural hegemony over other peoples and the exploitation of their natural resources.

13. Colonized countries had been severely damaged. Their inhabitants' lives were threatened, and they faced, inter alia, mass expulsions, slavery and the eradication of their languages and cultures. Moreover, hundreds of thousands were conscripted into the armies of colonial Powers. Colonized countries also suffered from economic exploitation and major environmental degradation, sometimes as a result of atomic tests. There was no doubt that colonialism had contributed to the socio-economic woes faced by most peoples in Africa. As a result, millions of Africans risked their lives to emigrate to those rich countries that had colonized their homelands. In order to foster international cooperation, it was urgent that colonized peoples received an apology as well as just compensation, so as to enable them to establish literacy programmes, combat poverty and fight disease. Such

steps would also help stem the tide of illegal migration from poor to rich countries.

14. **Mr. Sangqu** (South Africa), acknowledging the invaluable contribution made by the Committee, and in particular by the Special Committee against Apartheid, said that it was regrettable that on the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration on decolonization, the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, the last remaining colony in Africa, remained perpetually deferred. His delegation supported the proposal to declare the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

15. South Africa remained concerned at Morocco's illegal occupation of Western Sahara, which undermined the integrity of the United Nations. It supported the ongoing negotiation process and encouraged all parties to negotiate in good faith in line with Security Council resolution 1920 (2010). His Government remained committed to the African Union position in support of the holding of a referendum to enable the people of Western Sahara to choose between the option of independence and that of integration into the Kingdom of Morocco. The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, as a member of the African Union, would continue to be encouraged to seek a political solution to the issue of self-determination.

16. His delegation was concerned about the deterioration of the human rights situation in Western Sahara and in particular about violations perpetrated under the guise of counter-terrorism activities. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights should investigate those violations and the Security Council should mandate the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) to monitor human rights violations in Western Sahara. His delegation was also concerned at the alleged illegal exploitation of the natural resources of Western Sahara.

17. Capacity-building was a crucial element of decolonization in Western Sahara. In that context, his Government had provided executive training to senior officials of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, with a view to assisting them in the areas of preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution so as to enhance the ability of the Frente Polisario to maintain a peaceful approach towards the solution of their problems.

18. **Mr. Morejón** (Ecuador) said that decolonization must remain a matter of priority in the United Nations. He urged the administering Powers to cooperate fully in transmitting adequate information on each of the Territories for which they were responsible, in line with Article 73 of the Charter. Ecuador reiterated its support for the legitimate rights of Argentina in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands. The President of Ecuador had affirmed that position in a recent meeting of the Union of South American Nations, at which a declaration had been approved calling for a peaceful resolution of the sovereignty dispute in line with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the Organization of American States. His delegation denounced the exploration for non-renewable natural resources being conducted along the continental shelf of Argentina by the United Kingdom, in violation of General Assembly resolution 31/49.

19. After more than a century of colonialism by the United States of America, the people of Puerto Rico continued to struggle to exercise their legitimate right to independence and self-determination. As a proponent of peaceful coexistence and the right of self-determination, Ecuador once again called for the issue of Puerto Rico to be considered in all of its aspects by the General Assembly, in line with numerous resolutions.

20. His delegation reiterated its full support for the Sahrawi people and their right of self-determination. It commended the work of the Personal Envoy and urged the parties to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in order to resume family visits by air and initiate family visits by road.

21. **Mr. Sipangule** (Zambia) said that his delegation supported the proposal to declare a Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism; it was regrettable that at the end of the Second International Decade, the process of decolonization was still incomplete. The Committee had a responsibility to ensure that as it commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration on decolonization, the international community reaffirmed its commitment to the decolonization of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, including Western Sahara. In that regard, his delegation reaffirmed its support for the African Union and United Nations plans on Western Sahara, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and a mutually acceptable solution.

22. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria), said that Algeria knew well the price of achieving liberation from colonialism and accordingly, firmly supported the right to self-determination of the people of the Territories that were still under colonial domination or foreign occupation. Algeria was gratified that the people of Timor-Leste had been able to exercise their right to self-determination, but regretted that 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories remained on the decolonization agenda of the United Nations. His delegation therefore endorsed the recommendation to declare the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

23. The people of Western Sahara were still waiting to be able to exercise their right to self-determination. The African States had consistently worked for the full restoration of their rights; the African Union in declaring the year 2010 as the African Year of Peace, had appealed for the intensification of efforts towards the holding of a referendum to enable the people of Western Sahara to choose between the option of independence and that of integration into the Kingdom of Morocco. He wished to reaffirm Algeria's solidarity with the courageous people of Western Sahara and its unwavering support for the restoration of all their legitimate rights, including the right freely to choose their destiny by means of a referendum that would enable them to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

24. The United Nations must fulfil its responsibility towards the people of Western Sahara. Security Council resolution 1754 (2007), entailed according equal attention to the proposals of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Polisario. While the first four rounds of talks had focused on different interpretations of the purpose of the negotiations, those differences were in no way unsurmountable, given that both parties had initially subscribed to the objective of achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution that would allow the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. Algeria had participated in the formal and informal talks as an observer and as a neighbouring State. It would continue to contribute towards improving the atmosphere in the negotiations between the two parties to the conflict and supported the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy in their efforts to promote a mutually acceptable solution. His Government remained committed to supporting confidence-building measures, which should be extended to include monitoring of the human rights situation by means of an appropriate United Nations mechanism in order to ensure respect by each of the parties of its obligations and to verify alleged violations in a spirit of cooperation. Algeria was determined to act in concert with its neighbours to relaunch the process of building peace, stability, unity and prosperity throughout the Maghreb region.

25. **Mr. Rugunda** (Uganda) said that the fact that on the fiftieth anniversary of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), there were still over 2 million people living under occupation in 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories constituted a blot on the universal freedom, values and rights that were cherished by the international community and should be enjoyed by all people. It was unfortunate that at the end of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, not much progress had been achieved. His delegation reaffirmed its unequivocal support for the exercise by the peoples living under colonial rule of their right to self-determination, in accordance with the Charter and all relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions. Uganda called on all the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee with a view to achieving tangible progress as soon as possible.

26. Western Sahara remained the only member of the African Union that had yet to gain its independence. Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), the United Nations had consistently recognized the inalienable right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination. In addition, the Security Council, in resolution 690 (1991) had expressed its full support for the organization of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. His delegation reaffirmed all Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1920 (2010), which called upon parties to show political will and enter into more substantive negotiations While his delegation commended the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy, it noted that not much progress had been achieved. It was unacceptable that after more than two decades, the Sahrawi people were still denied the right to determine their own destiny. His delegation was deeply concerned about human rights violations in Western Sahara and called for a mechanism for the monitoring of human rights, either by MINURSO or by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. It urged Morocco,

the occupying Power, to engage in constructive negotiations that would pave the way for the holding of a referendum on self-determination and reiterated its concern about the continued illegal exploitation of the resources of Western Sahara.

27. **Mr. Loulichki** (Morocco) said that over the past two days the Committee had heard from impartial petitioners of diverse backgrounds and authentic representatives of the Sahara population, who had described the efforts made by Morocco since 1975 to address long-standing deficiencies in infrastructure and in economic, social and cultural development, enabling the southern provinces of Morocco to achieve almost all the Millennium Development Goals. Most Sahrawis had remained in Morocco where, along with the thousands who had joined them, they were exercising their political, civil, economic and socio-cultural rights and contributing to the prosperity of the region.

28. The current dispute had been triggered by greed over Morocco's recovery of its Sahara; that greed was disguised as a geographically selective attachment to the principle of self-determination. However, that principle, which Morocco itself had helped develop, had never been intended, and had never served, as an instrument for undermining the unity and integrity of States, or as a pretext for depriving States of integral parts of their territory, with a community of language, religion, traditions and culture, as was the case in Moroccan Sahara. It was on that basis that all the States of North Africa, including Algeria, had been able to keep the Saharan part of their national territory; when Algeria, on the eve of its independence, had been threatened by a last colonial attempt to amputate it from its Sahara, Morocco had provided support to the point of refusing to negotiate with the colonial Power on the demarcation of the Moroccan-Algerian borders, preferring to negotiate with independent Algeria, which was well aware of the injustices committed against Morocco and the successive annexations of its territory. It was precisely to ward off the threat of secession that the Declaration on decolonization provided that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country was incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter; and, along with General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV), emphasized the importance of the freely expressed will of the peoples concerned. Accordingly, Morocco had explicitly included in its autonomy initiative the requirement of consultation with the population of the Sahara. His Government had ensured that the autonomy initiative enjoyed national legitimacy by involving representatives of the population and from across the political spectrum in its formulation and then seeking international recognition through consultations with partners in the region. As a result, the Security Council had commended the initiative and the efforts made by Morocco in that regard.

29. Morocco continued to negotiate in good faith, and was determined to ensure that negotiations were successful. However, a range of tactics had been used to undermine the fragile negotiating process, and a plethora of baseless allegations had been made as a smokescreen to conceal the true intentions of their instigators. Morocco, however, had launched an extensive process of reforms in the areas of human rights and governance which were benefiting all Moroccans and the entire territory, and no one could tarnish its image by means of lies and slander.

30. The current dispute could not last forever, particularly in view of the human cost for the populations living in makeshift camps. However, it could not be resolved while the borders between Morocco and Algeria remained closed, in defiance of the shared history of the two countries. The dispute must be resolved through dialogue and negotiation, with a view to building a common future of peace and prosperity. Moreover, Morocco aspired to the formation of a strong and coherent regional grouping in the Maghreb, along the lines of what had been achieved in Europe.

31. Morocco welcomed the statement made at the plenary session by Algerian Minister for Foreign Affairs pledging full support to efforts by the United Nations to resolve the conflict. The Algerian Government must now fulfil that pledge by discharging all its obligations and responsibilities. At the political level, Algeria must engage fully in the ongoing negotiating process, instead of continuing to be a passive observer, and at the humanitarian level, it must fulfil its duty towards the population of the Tindouf camps by allowing UNHCR to conduct a census. Algeria must rescind its unilateral decision to close its borders with Morocco.

32. Morocco aspired to a united Maghreb, based on respect for territorial integrity, reconciliation and a sincere commitment to build an economically and

politically strong Maghreb that was able to deal with the security threats on its borders. It had made the strategic choice of negotiations to achieve that goal and firmly believed that the only way to solve the dispute once and for all was on the basis of a win-win approach. Morocco urged the other parties to commit themselves in good faith and to demonstrate a spirit of compromise and realism. It hoped that the Committee would once again express support for the negotiating process and urge the other parties to engage in that process in a genuine, concrete and sustained manner in the interests of peace and stability both in the Maghreb and throughout the African continent.

Rights of reply

33. **Mr. Andrabi** (Pakistan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, and responding to the statement by the representative of India, said that Jammu and Kashmir was not and had never been an integral part of India and had been recognized as disputed territory in several Security Council resolutions. No electoral exercise conducted in Jammu and Kashmir by India could substitute for a free and impartial plebiscite as mandated by the Security Council.

34. *Mr. Flisiuk (Vice-Chairperson) took the Chair.*

35. **Mr. Shepherd** (United Kingdom), responding to the statement made by the representative of Jamaica on behalf of the CARICOM countries, said that since August 2009, much progress had been made to reform and embed the principles of sound financial management and good governance across the structures and Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands. His Government did not wish to postpone elections in the Islands any longer than necessary; the United Kingdom Minister of State for the Overseas Territories had indicated that he would issue a statement by the end of 2010 setting out the remaining milestones which must be met before elections could be held. Extensive public consultations on constitutional reform had been undertaken in the Territory by an independent constitutional and electoral reform adviser. His Government, and the Governor, had encouraged all sectors of society to take part in those consultations, which provided an opportunity for the views of all the people of the Territory to be made known to his Government. The consultations would facilitate the formulation of a new constitution which would help a future democratically elected government of the Turks and Caicos Islands to remain on a sound financial footing and exercise good governance.

36. Responding to the representatives of Argentina and Ecuador, he said that the United Kingdom had no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. There could be no negotiations on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands unless and until such time as the islanders so wished. His Government attached great importance to the principle of self-determination as set out in the United Nations Charter and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Democratically elected representatives of the Falkland Islands had recently addressed the Special Committee and had reiterated the historical facts that the Falkland Islands had no indigenous people and that no civilian population had been removed prior to their people settling the Islands over eight generations ago. They wished the status of the Islands to remain unchanged. The Government of the Falkland Islands was, moreover, entitled to develop a hydrocarbons industry within its territorial waters in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

37. **Mr. Díaz Bartolomé** (Argentina) said, in reply to the United Kingdom representative, that his Government considered that the Malvinas Islands, the South Georgia Islands, the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas were an integral part of Argentine territory and that, having been illegally occupied by the United Kingdom, they were the subject of a sovereignty dispute between the two countries, as had been recognized repeatedly in successive General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions, all of which had urged the two Governments to resume negotiations in order to find a peaceful, lasting solution to the dispute. That position had also been endorsed by the Organization of American States. Argentina reaffirmed its legitimate rights of national sovereignty over the territories in question.

38. **Ms. Lalama** (Ecuador), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, expressed support for Argentina's position. The United Kingdom had failed to comply with General Assembly resolution 31/49.

39. **Mr. Ravindra** (India), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he rejected in their entirety the untenable comments of the representative of Pakistan.

40. **Mr. Andrabi** (Pakistan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Security Council, in resolution 91 (1951), had rejected the authority of the

constituent assembly formed by India in occupied Kashmir to decide on the future of the state of Jammu and Kashmir and had reminded the parties that the final disposition of the state was to be made in accordance with the will of its people. Furthermore, in resolution 122 (1957), the Security Council had declared that the convening of a constituent assembly and any action that assembly might take would not constitute a disposition of the state of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations. Pakistan therefore believed that the points it had raised were tenable and accorded with United Nations resolutions.

41. *Mr. Chipaziwa (Zimbabwe) resumed the Chair.*

42. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolutions and the draft decision under agenda items 55, 56, 57, 58 and 59, none of which had any programme budget implications.

Draft resolution I on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, submitted under item 55 (A/65/23, chap. XII)

43. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

France, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

44. *Draft resolution I was adopted by 140 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.**

45. **Mr. Shepherd** (United Kingdom) said that as in previous years, the United Kingdom had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution. His Government did not take issue with the main objective of the draft resolution, which was to seek compliance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, and would continue to meet its obligations fully in that regard in respect of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories. It believed, however, that the decision as to whether a Non-Self-Governing Territory had reached a level of self-government sufficient to relieve the administering Power of the obligation to submit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter ultimately fell to the Government of the Territory and the administering Power concerned, and not to the General Assembly.

Draft resolution II on economic and other activities, submitted under item 56 (A/65/23, chap. XII)

46. *A recorded vote was taken.*

* The delegation of Bolivia subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

47. *Draft resolution II was adopted by 146 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.**

* The delegation of Bolivia subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

48. **Mr. Díaz Bartolomé** (Argentina), said that draft resolution II must be interpreted within the framework of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on decolonization. Accordingly, the applicability of the draft resolution to a specific Territory depended on whether the right to self-determination was relevant to that Territory. The exercise of the right of self-determination presupposed an active subject, in the form of a people subject to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation, as required by paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). The Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas were illegally occupied by the United Kingdom, which had expelled the local population of the islands and replaced it with its own population. That meant that the right of self-determination was inapplicable to the question of the Malvinas Islands.

49. All of the General Assembly resolutions on the issue, in particular resolution 2065 (XX), as well as the resolutions adopted by the Special Committee, had expressly established that, owing to the existence of a sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, the way to put an end to that special and particular colonial situation was not through self-determination, but through a negotiated settlement of the sovereignty dispute between the only two parties: the United Kingdom and Argentina. Furthermore, the General Assembly had expressly ruled out the applicability of the principle of self-determination in regard to the Malvinas Islands in 1985 when it had rejected by a large majority two proposals by the United Kingdom seeking to incorporate that principle into a draft resolution on the question. The draft resolution was therefore in no way applicable to the question of the Malvinas Islands, the South Georgia Islands, the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

50. The General Assembly, in resolution 31/49, had called upon Argentina and the United Kingdom to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the Islands were going through the negotiating process recommended by the General Assembly. The unilateral and illegal exploration and exploitation by the United Kingdom of the natural renewable and non-renewable resources of Argentina in the Malvinas

Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas were therefore in open violation of that specific pronouncement of the United Nations.

Draft resolution III on implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and international institutions, submitted under item 57 (A/64/23, chap. XII)

51. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

52. *Draft resolution III was adopted by 97 votes to none, with 51 abstentions.**

53. **Ms. Deman** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that while it supported assistance by the specialized agencies to Non-Self-Governing Territories in educational, humanitarian and technical fields, the European Union considered that the agency mandates must be scrupulously observed, and for that reason it had abstained in the vote.

54. **Mr. Díaz Bartolomé** (Argentina) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote because the draft resolution had to be implemented in accordance with the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee relevant to each specific Territory.

Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.3 on offers by Member States for study and training facilities, submitted under item 58

55. **The Chairperson** announced that Thailand had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

56. *Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.3 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.4 on the question of Gibraltar, submitted under item 59.

57. *Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.4 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.5 on the question of Western Sahara, submitted under item 59

58. *Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.5 was adopted.*

59. **Ms. Deman** (Belgium), speaking in explanation of vote on behalf of the European Union; the candidate country Croatia; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro; and, in addition, Liechtenstein, Norway, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that those

* The delegation of Bolivia subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

delegations welcomed the consensus adoption of the draft resolution on the question of Western Sahara. The European Union reaffirmed its full support for the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution that provided for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. It encouraged the parties to work towards such a solution within the framework of the United Nations. It fully supported the negotiations and the informal meetings convened by the Personal Envoy in preparation for the launch of the fifth round of negotiations, which it hoped would enter into a more intensive phase and be held in good faith and without preconditions, cognizant of efforts and developments since 2006, and thus ensuring the implementation of recent Security Council resolutions. The European Union remained concerned about the implications of the Western Sahara conflict for security and cooperation in the region. It encouraged the parties to collaborate with UNHCR in the implementation of confidence-building measures, such as the family visits programme, that would improve the atmosphere for the political process.

Draft resolution IV on the question of New Caledonia, submitted under item 59 (A/65/23, chap. XII)

60. **The Chairperson** recalled that the draft resolution had been orally revised by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee at the previous meeting.

61. **Mr. Nayasi** (Fiji), speaking in explanation of position, said that he supported the draft resolution as revised because it reflected the modest progress that had been made since the previous year with regard to New Caledonia. Fiji commended the stakeholders, including the administering Power and the Special Committee, for their continued cooperation, which was necessary to ensure the successful decolonization of the Territory.

62. *Draft resolution IV, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Draft resolution V on the question of Tokelau, submitted under item 59 (A/65/23, chap. XII)

63. *Draft resolution V was adopted.*

64. **Mr. Aimee** (Saint Lucia) thanked the French and New Zealand Governments for their cooperation as administering Powers. They were showing what could be done, and others should follow their lead. His Government was extremely pleased that decolonization in both New Caledonia and Tokelau was continuing at a pace acceptable to all.

Draft resolution VII on dissemination of information on decolonization, submitted under item 59 (A/65/23, chap. XII)

65. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

France.

66. *Draft resolution VII was adopted by 143 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.**

67. **Mr. Shepherd** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had voted against the draft resolution because it considered that the obligation placed on the Secretariat to publicize decolonization issues represented an unwarranted drain on the scarce resources of the United Nations.

68. **Mr. Díaz Bartolomé** (Argentina) said that Argentina expressed its firm support for the right of self-determination of the peoples subjected to colonial domination and foreign occupation, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2625 (XXV). Nevertheless, draft resolution VII must be interpreted and implemented in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee. Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), all resolutions on the question of the Malvinas Islands had explicitly defined it as a special and particular colonial situation in that it involved a sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, the South Georgia Islands and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas between two sole parties, Argentina and the United Kingdom. All the resolutions established that the way to settle the dispute was through the resumption of the bilateral negotiations in order to find without delay a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the dispute, taking into account the interests of the population of the Islands.

Draft resolution VIII on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, submitted under item 59 (A/65/23, chap. XII)

69. *A recorded vote was requested.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Belgium, France.

70. *Draft resolution VIII was adopted by 149 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions.**

* The delegation of Bolivia subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

* The delegation of Algeria subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

71. **Mr. Shepherd** (United Kingdom), said that his delegation continued to find some elements of the draft resolution unacceptable, and had therefore voted against it. Nevertheless, the United Kingdom remained committed to modernizing its relationship with its Overseas Territories, while fully taking into account the views of the peoples of those Territories.

72. **Mr. Díaz Bartolomé** (Argentina), referring to paragraph 7 of draft resolution VIII, recalled that visiting missions could only be sent to Territories to which the right to self-determination applied, meaning Territories where there was no dispute over sovereignty. That requirement was fully in line with General Assembly resolution 850 (IX), which also established the requirement that any visiting mission must be approved by the General Assembly.

Draft resolution IX on the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, submitted under item 59 (A/65/23, chap. XII)

73. *A recorded vote was requested.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

74. *Draft resolution IX was adopted by 150 votes to 3.*

75. **Mr. Shepherd** (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom had voted against draft resolution IX as it failed to recognize the progress that had been made in the relationship between the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories, which was now a modern relationship, based on partnership, shared values and the right of each Territory to determine whether it wished to retain the link to the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom would support moves towards independence, where that was an option, if that was the clear and constitutionally expressed wish of the majority of people in the Territory concerned. The United Kingdom believed that the Special Committee and the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories were outdated and that none of its Overseas Territories should remain on that list.

76. **Mr. Díaz Bartolomé** (Argentina), said that the Declaration on decolonization should be implemented on a case-by-case basis, bearing in mind the political circumstances of each individual Territory, in conformity with the two ruling principles of the Declaration: self-determination and the territorial integrity of States. There were special cases in which the United Nations had wisely upheld the applicability of the right to maintain territorial integrity: one was the question of the Malvinas Islands, which involved a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the Malvinas Islands, the South Georgia

Islands, the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. The fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration was an opportunity to recall that any vestige of colonialism was a crime violating the Charter, the Declaration and the principles of international law as set out in General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV).

Draft resolution X on the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, submitted under item 59 (A/65/23, chap. XII)

77. *A recorded vote was requested.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden.

78. *Draft resolution X was adopted by 130 votes to 3, with 20 abstentions.*

79. **Mr. Shepherd** (United Kingdom), said that the United Kingdom had voted against the draft resolution because it could not accept the proposal for a Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Moreover, the draft resolution failed to take into account the progress that had been made as the relationship between the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories had been modernized, on the basis of partnership, shared values and the right of each Territory to determine whether it wished to retain the link to the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom would support moves towards independence, where that was an option, if that was the clear and constitutionally expressed wish of the majority of people in the Territory concerned. The United Kingdom believed that the Special Committee and the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories were outdated and that none of its Overseas Territories should remain on that list. Moreover, some provisions of the draft resolution could necessitate the use of scarce United Nations resources, which should be devoted to more urgent issues.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.

United Nations A/C.4/65/SR.8

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Summary record of the 8th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 12 October 2010, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Flisiuk (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Poland)

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Agenda item 50: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 50: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (A/65/20 and A/C.4/65/L.2)

Panel discussion on Space and emergencies

1. **The Chairperson**, recalling that the panel discussion had been called for by the Member States of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), said that emergency situations and disasters continued to haunt societies. It had become increasingly important to build capacities at all levels to mitigate their devastating effects. Emergencies and other major challenges must be addressed in a holistic manner; space technology applications provided a set of tools of increasing importance to decision makers.

2. **Mr. Choi** (Assistant Secretary-General, Chief Information Technology Officer), illustrating his statement with a computerized slide presentation, said that he had participated in a mission to Haiti, with other United Nations officials and a non-governmental organization called the ICT4Peace Foundation, to inspect United Nations operations and to discuss with all parties how to improve access to vital information during crises. The United Nations had made a commitment that its presence in Haiti would serve as a launch site for an enhanced crisis information management capability. Tragically, the earthquake that struck the island only a few weeks later had prevented that from happening. Better preparation and the sharing of vital crisis information by all parties could have saved lives.

3. Crisis management depended heavily on information and communications technology in both man-made crises and natural disasters. Non-governmental and non-United Nations actors were becoming increasingly active and sophisticated in implementing effective information management methods during crises. The United Nations crisis information management strategy recognized the significant stake and responsibilities of the United Nations and its Member States in preventing, mitigating, managing and recovering from all types of crises. The strategy would enhance the collective information management capacity of the United Nations and its experience to integrate and harmonize work practices and systems across policies, which could save lives and protect human dignity. The goal underlying the strategy was to help the United Nations deal more effectively with all stages of a crisis life cycle and work better with all stakeholders by providing the right information at the right time and ensuring access to timely and reliable information to save lives and achieve better results.

4. Unfortunately, many organizations involved in crises often developed point solutions instead of integrated solutions to manage information. That was the result of years of incremental expansion without proper planning and coordination and the need for many organizations to operate across multiple countries when responding to different situations. However, advances in technology and communication had made it possible to develop more integrated approaches to information management and had enabled more effective collaboration during crises.

5. In collaboration with the ICT4Peace Foundation, his office was leading the strategic effort with key stakeholders in the field and at Headquarters to produce significant improvements in the international community's overall crisis information management capabilities, through an integrated approach focusing on four main areas: information architecture, technology development, capacity-building and stakeholder management. The success of its endeavours would have far-reaching implications for the United Nations and all other actors during crises. Standardizing the collection and sharing of critical information could lead to more effective decision-making and more timely delivery of essential services. The availability of more credible, accurate, complete and timely information could improve public communications and journalistic reporting and, with up-to-date statistics, fundraising efforts that depended upon public opinion could be launched more effectively. Post-conflict reporting and assessment could be more transparent.

6. Crisis information management included a wide range of applications, such as space-based technologies, satellite imagery, satellite-based emergency telecommunications and global navigation satellite systems. Despite United Nations efforts to improve access to satellite imagery and space-based data and applications, more could be done to share available resources and to negotiate better licensing agreements while avoiding duplication. Member States could support the United Nations in reaching such agreements by contributing resources to the Space Aid

Fund, that would make it possible for data to be purchased expeditiously. The use of satellite-based telecommunications could be better coordinated through appropriate inter-agency structures under cluster-based humanitarian response arrangements, complemented by support from space agencies, other related organizations and the private sector.

7. The transition which the world of information and communications technology was experiencing would have a major influence on the future of crisis management. However, in addition to technology, political will, leadership and a willingness to cooperate were required, as well as public awareness and support, and financial resources from all sources.

8. **Ms. Othman** (Director, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs), illustrating her statement with a computerized slide presentation, said that the Office had been established to promote international cooperation in the use of outer space in order to achieve development goals for the benefit of humankind. The Office was responsible for servicing COPUOS and its subsidiaries, including the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, and the Fourth Committee. It maintained the Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space and implemented the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER).

9. Rapid and efficient responses to disasters depended on information about their impacts. Emergency responders used satellite information to identify usable infrastructure to deliver humanitarian assistance. Modern satellites could see below the clouds, which was essential for damage assessment and the planning of recovery efforts after disasters.

10. UN-SPIDER had been established in 2006 to ensure that all countries and international and regional organizations had access to and developed the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle. Therefore, the office was not only involved in emergency response but other aspects of disaster management, including early warning and mitigation. The UN-SPIDER network consisted of regional and international agencies, regional support offices and national focal points. The core of its work was providing technical advisory support which consisted of raising awareness of the importance of space-based information for disaster management and emergency response; advising Governments on how to use space-based information; guiding international policies on disaster management and emergency response; and bringing together space communities and disaster management communities.

11. Regional centres on space science and technology education in Brazil, India, Mexico, Morocco and Nigeria assisted the Office and the Committee in building capacity in remote sensing and geographic information systems, satellite communication, satellite meteorology and global climate, and space and atmospheric sciences. Curricula would be developed in the near future on global navigation satellite systems and space law. The regional centres could meet the needs of Member States for training in space-based information for disaster management.

12. **Mr. González Aninat** (second Vice-Chair, Rapporteur of COPUOS) said that the theme of the panel discussion was extremely important; in a globalized world, disasters unfortunately had direct and indirect effects on all countries. A great deal of progress and important agreements had been reached within the regional framework of the Space Conferences of the Americas; those achievements had taken place within a global context of a legal and political framework whose origins lay in the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE II), where the conclusion had been reached that regional cooperation was the most efficient means of confronting a fundamentally asymmetrical world. It had been asymmetrical then because of the Cold War and was asymmetrical now because of many challenges, including global warming and social and societal warming. The subject of disasters and emergencies needed to be revisited, and political aspects must be included in any analysis. Space-based applications could and should play a key role in the design of an early warning, emergency and reconstruction policy to address natural and humanitarian disasters. Humanitarian disasters, including migrations and acts of terrorism, were often the cause, or the direct or indirect result, of natural disasters.

13. The duty of States to cooperate with one another, which had been taken lightly too often, was of enormous importance in the case of natural disasters. International cooperation and human security were an essential aspect of the mitigation of natural disasters.

given the world's globalized and interconnected nature. The international community would live in a permanent state of emergency as long as obstacles remained to the full recognition of human rights and dignity. Preventive measures were needed to mitigate that situation. The use of space-based technology, including satellite sensing, was an important tool in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of long-term sustainability projects. Early warning and early action could help to prepare for disasters, based on the information provided by satellites.

14. The principles of space law, dating back to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, which had established the concept of outer space as the heritage of all mankind, were founded on international cooperation. International cooperation was becoming truly global in nature, involving a multiplicity of actors and a strong presence by civil society. Preventive measures, based on information from satellites, could reduce vulnerability while strengthening human security and development.

15. Remote sensing and the information it produced were currently caught up in a trade war with the space industry, which was mainly private. However, when the principles guiding remote sensing had been drafted, satellites had played a very different strategic role, in the context of the cold war. Space law must respond to current realities and must be clarified in many areas, such as satellite-based evidence in litigation and the sphere of patents, and must ensure that all countries, regardless of their stage of development, had access to space-based technologies. Where disasters were concerned, general references to environmental protection were inadequate and could not effectively address, in a preventive manner, the phenomena currently affecting international stability. The Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries was ambiguous and too general and did not cover the subject of emergencies or disasters.

16. At UNISPACE II, a Chilean initiative on the need for stronger regional cooperation had been adopted, ushering in legislation that had strengthened States' practices. There was a growing awareness of the transnational nature of space applications and the corresponding need for concerted action. UNISPACE III had closed the gaps opened up by the rapid progress in space technologies, especially telecommunications, and had addressed the importance of international cooperation in environmental monitoring and disaster management, which had been revisited at the UNISPACE III Review Conference.

17. The International Charter "Space and Major Disasters", adopted by several space and space-related agencies around the world, had been designed to provide a unified system of space data acquisition and delivery to those affected by disasters. That concept had been broadened with the establishment of UN-SPIDER, which addressed the entire emergency cycle and was not subject to membership of any given space agency.

18. The Space Conferences of the Americas were an example of regional collaboration and interregional dialogue for the dissemination of and access to knowledge through the supply of strategic information on development and human security. The Conferences had continued to strengthen the commitment to the Millennium Development Goals through space-based applications and recognized that the new challenges posed by the modern world needed a global vision that only satellites could provide.

19. **Mr. Windsor** (Australia) said that he agreed with the Chief Information Technology Officer that States were having to catch up with technologies to respond to disasters and that there was an inadequate understanding of the tools that technology could actually provide. The Asia-Pacific Space Agency Forum had established Sentinel Asia after the Asian tsunami, bringing together the space and disaster management agencies of the region to build up a disaster risk management system. It was functioning and receiving information from satellites, sharing the data and using technologies to transform data into something usable by disaster management agencies. It was currently providing information on 10 situations in five countries of the region, including flooding in Pakistan and volcanic eruptions in Indonesia. The organization was voluntary and cooperative and hopefully would provide a model for regional cooperation that could be shared in other countries in the world. The Asian Disaster Reduction Centre in Japan was the point of contact for emergency observation requests for Sentinel Asia, and the UN-SPIDER regional support office provided a connection with the multilateral system. The support of

the United Nations in the region was highly valuable, especially for small island developing States which faced not only the effects of disasters but also such pressing issues as climate change.

20. **Mr. Michelen** (Dominican Republic) said that his country was grateful for help from the international community to build capacities to deal with natural disasters. In January 2010 a technical advisory mission had arrived from the UN-SPIDER programme. In the aftermath of the earthquake that had struck Haiti in January 2010, the people of the Dominican Republic had learned that loss of human life and damage to property must be prevented before major disasters occurred. His country and Haiti were exposed to the same natural hazards; their capacities to respond to them were essentially the same and only varied by degree. He appreciated the mandatory nature of cooperation in all areas.

21. **Mr. Choi** (Assistant Secretary-General, Chief Information Technology Officer) said that deforestation in Haiti was significant and that, consequently, its towns and cities were more likely to be inundated during hurricanes. Space technology could look at patterns, including the amount of rainfall, and determine what would happen in the event of a hurricane. There was always the possibility of not building towns where flooding was likely to occur. There were many ways to use space technology to do more to prevent and manage crises.

22. **Ms. Othman** (Director, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs) said that there were many ways to strengthen the relationship between Member States and UN-SPIDER. For example, States could nominate national focal points to that Office; her Office had sent letters requesting that they do so. States could also nominate regional support officers.

23. **Mr. González Aninat** (second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of COPUOS) noted the immediate and effective support his country, Chile, had received after the earthquake there in February 2010, especially from the UN-SPIDER and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. Chile had collaborated in the establishment of UN-SPIDER, which was a valuable tool. Major natural disasters needed to be addressed comprehensively, perhaps in a new United Nations space policy, with more effective involvement of regional organizations such as those in Latin America. Citing financial reasons, regional organizations, including those in the Latin American and Caribbean region, had not attended COPUOS meetings; the General Assembly needed to reaffirm the necessity of attending and participating in those meetings. The least developed countries were the most vulnerable to natural disasters and were the most affected by the failure of organizations to attend meetings. Those countries needed access to space technologies. He noted that 80 per cent of the deaths caused by the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean could have been prevented if existing space technology systems had been used to provide timely warnings.

General debate

24. **Mr. Lambert** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union remained strongly committed to guaranteeing the peaceful uses of outer space for all nations and for future generations. The International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space was a substantive chapter of the European Space Policy, to be implemented by the European Commission through the setting up of a European space programme. That new constitutional framework aimed to achieve a more effective coordination of the actions of the European Union and its member States. On 27 September 2010, European Union Ministers had endorsed a revised version of the 2008 draft Code of Conduct for outer space activities as a basis for wider consultations. That Code would provide States with a non-binding instrument responding to concerns regarding the security and sustainability of space activities. The European Union attached great importance to the issue of the long-term sustainability of space activities, in view of the growing strategic and economic value of outer space. The solution to problems such as space debris, radio interference and the protection of space systems were key to ensuring the peaceful, sound, sustainable and equitable sharing of space resources.

25. An important part of the discussion held within COPUOS and other forums concerned the use of space systems for socio-economic applications. From security to natural resources management, satellites were assuming a growing importance in everyday life.

There was an ongoing need to reflect on the better use of outer space and of space systems and capacities, notably by educating and involving the users of those applications. The implementation of the UN-SPIDER programme was central to ensuring that all countries had access to and developed the capacity to use space-based information during all phases of disaster management, including the risk reduction phase.

26. Strengthening the link between the providers and users of space services was another major challenge being addressed by European space policy. With a view to meeting that challenge, Belgium and the European Union had recently held a high-level conference entitled "Space for the African Citizen". The outcome of that event would be presented in the discussion at the Third Africa-European Union Summit, to be held shortly in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

27. **Mr. Prates** (Brazil), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the acceding State the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and the associated States Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, said that space applications must benefit all countries, hence the importance of universal access to space-based data. Developing countries needed such data not only for technological development, but also for sustainable economic, social and environmental development. Countries with greater space capabilities must focus on capacity-building to enable developing countries to receive, interpret and model space-based data. South-South cooperation was an important part of enhancing those capacities. The Space Conference of the Americas was a valuable forum for the strengthening of regional cooperation. The strengthening of national and regional capacity, investment in the development of space technology and space science and technology education were prerequisites for the access of developing countries to the benefits of the peaceful uses of outer space. In that regard, he drew attention to the activities of the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean.

28. MERCOSUR believed that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should continue to focus, as a matter of priority, on areas in which most developing countries could participate and benefit from the activities carried out in implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. In order to maximize the benefits of space applications, geospatial data should be deemed public goods. The experience of his region had shown that free access to open-source software for those applications could be guaranteed.

29. Space technologies were vital for the implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and as a tool for responding quickly and appropriately to challenges such as climate change, drought, desertification, loss of biodiversity, food and energy crises, and artificial and natural disasters. Space technology was already being used in his region to monitor agricultural activities in semi-arid zones. MERCOSUR urged COPUOS to reflect on how it could contribute to the objectives of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.

30. UN-SPIDER had become an important part of the world network for disaster prevention and early response. The effectiveness of those actions could be multiplied through ongoing coordination between UN-SPIDER and other initiatives that promoted the use of space-based data. UN-SPIDER should also consolidate its work and increase its efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

31. **Mr. Windsor** (Australia) said that space activities had increasingly become an integral part of everyday life. Benefits derived from space applications had dramatically increased safety, security, accuracy, predictability and convenience in daily life. Space-based sensors could gather data from sites around the world, including places that were too remote or inaccessible for ground-based data acquisition. Satellite-based Earth observation helped provide some of the evidence necessary for Governments to make informed decisions. Australia therefore supported an international rules-based approach to promote peaceful, safe and responsible space operations and further strengthen international cooperation. Through its international relationships, Australia contributed to monitoring and managing the space environment. For example, the Australian Space Research Program was funding research into the automated high-precision tracking of space debris.

32. Australia, like the majority of countries, was reliant on others for satellites and launch facilities, and was dependent on properly functioning systems of international cooperation. It was in the process of developing a national space policy, which would state that international collaboration was vital to Australia's

space efforts. It would also further strengthen its international relationships by co-hosting with Japan the seventeenth session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum in Melbourne in November 2010. The theme of the forum was "The role of space technology and industry in addressing climate change", which had been the topic of a panel discussion in the Committee in 2009.

33. Climate change and human activities were accelerating hazards such as deforestation, landslides, droughts and flooding. Environmental monitoring had become more important in the mitigation of those hazards. In addition, Australian scientists had been using data derived from satellite images as a basis for a national carbon accounting system.

34. **Mr. Hamed** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation stood ready to support any initiative aimed at preventing the militarization and weaponization of outer space. He called for all States, without distinction, to be afforded access to outer space for peaceful purposes and expressed his rejection of attempts to appropriate outer space by any means. Welcoming the statements in the Committee's report (document A/65/20) on the use of Earth observation satellites to support sustainable development and the importance of ensuring non-discriminatory and timely access to remote-sensing data and derived information at little or no cost, he called for further efforts to enhance the capacities of developing countries in the use of remote-sensing technology.

35. His Government understood the important role that remote-sensing technologies could play in economic life. Its General Organization of Remote Sensing participated in a range of projects designed to develop and protect his country's natural resources and economic sectors. His Government had concluded numerous cooperation agreements on sharing information and expertise relating to the peaceful uses of outer space. In that connection, he called on COPUOS to contribute to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development by focusing on key challenges such as food security, biodiversity and climate change, among others, and to consider convening a fourth United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. He furthermore called for greater use to be made of UN-SPIDER in response to the devastating effects of natural disasters.

36. Recalling the importance of international cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space for development, prosperity and growth, he urged developed countries to share technology and information with developing countries and countries with economies in transition in order to make the world a more secure and more stable place for all.

37. **Mr. Hernández Toledano** (Cuba) said that there were almost 23,000 nuclear weapons in the world, much more powerful than the ones that had sown terror and death in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with about one third ready to be deployed immediately. Global military expenditures were increasing at a dizzying pace, having risen to approximately 1.5 trillion dollars. It was paradoxical that, in the current state of the world, some countries were devoting such astronomical figures to military expenditures as well as millions more to the arms race in space, while other nations sought instead to ensure that outer space, the common heritage of mankind, would be made to serve more noble ends, such as sustainable development and the prevention of natural disasters. The legal regime governing outer space was not adequate to guarantee that there would be no arms race in space. The Conference on Disarmament, the single multilateral negotiating forum in the field, should take the lead in urgently negotiating a multilateral agreement on the prevention of all aspects of an arms race in outer space. Otherwise, the many promising space applications would have no future. COPUOS had a special responsibility to promote the peaceful uses of outer space and to refine the ethical principles and legal instruments guaranteeing an absolutely peaceful, fair and non-discriminatory use of all space applications.

38. Cuba, despite its limited resources, was investing more and more in space research and space applications for peaceful purposes, such as meteorological applications that saved lives by predicting natural disasters, or detecting forest fires. It was a universally accepted legal principle that all States had the right to explore and use outer space for the benefit of all humanity. Yet not all States could expect to achieve fully autonomous space capabilities in the near future. Consequently, as more nations engaged in space activities, bilateral and multilateral cooperation and the need to exchange experience and technology acquired more urgency, especially for the developing countries. For instance, COPUOS should work more closely with the Committee on Sustainable

Development. Climate change and food security, where, again, international cooperation was essential, were two fields to which COPUOS should turn its attention. All nations had to work together in a coordinated, non-discriminatory way to ensure an optimal and responsible enjoyment of the limitless possibilities of space research and applications.

39. **Mr. Weisleder** (Costa Rica) said that the peaceful uses of outer space of particular interest to Costa Rica were scientific research and development of technological capabilities in the developing countries within a framework of international cooperation, space legislation, environmental protection and the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters. At the United Nations, COPUOS should coordinate with Member States to ensure that space applications satisfied the development needs of all countries.

40. The Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines developed by that Committee marked an advance, but they needed to be rounded out by national legislation. It was, moreover, the exclusive duty of States at any stage of development to regulate in the interest of peace the use of nuclear energy sources in space.

41. Free and fair access should be guaranteed to the geostationary orbit and its applications, which, as a limited natural resource that risked becoming saturated, should be rationalized and made available irrespective of a State's current technical capabilities. The orbit had great potential for use in social and educational programmes and medical assistance in the developing countries. There should be more coordination between COPUOS and its two subcommittees, bearing in mind the responsibility of the United Nations for the progressive development of outer space law.

42. UN-SPIDER had recently concluded a welcome agreement to make the Water Centre for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean the support centre for the regional offices to be established. Costa Rica would continue working within the Space Conference of the Americas; and its National Aerospace Research and Development Council would work to develop aerospace technology in the Central American region as a whole. Cooperation was already ongoing on the Daedalus project for launching a weather balloon into the stratosphere that would measure and image atmospheric variables. Such activities showed how even small countries with limited resources could participate in activities traditionally considered the sole province of great Powers. When States combined their efforts with those of the private sector, and had the support of their scientific and academic community, long-term development became a possibility.

43. **Ms. Yang** Yuya (China) said that China had made significant progress in areas such as space exploration and satellite technologies in the past year, having launched a satellite at the beginning of October, advanced its satellite navigation system and space infrastructure projects and achieved substantive progress in the construction and integration of the ground systems for remote-sensing satellites. Moreover, space technology had been applied extensively in economic and social activities, which played an irreplaceable role in social and economic development.

44. Her Government was committed to exploring outer space in the interests of peace, development, cooperation, the rule of law and the well-being of all mankind. The UN-SPIDER Beijing Office would soon become operational. Her Government would continue to support the work of the Office to promote international cooperation and capacity-building in the area of space technology for disaster reduction, from which other developing countries could benefit. China was also co-sponsoring a training programme in global navigation satellite systems and their applications with the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization.

45. 2011 would mark the 50th anniversary both of COPUOS and of manned space flights, and the commemoration being planned by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs would offer States an opportunity to showcase their space achievements and share their technologies. China was making active preparations for the exhibition. It was ready to cooperate in a practical way with all countries, especially the developing countries, to explore and build peace in outer space in a more open and responsible manner.

46. **Mr. Kim** Yong Jo (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that dozens of States were now capable of launching satellites, and many nations, including developing countries, were participating in peaceful outer space activities. His nation had been one of the satellite-manufacturing and launching States since 1998 and had placed its second satellite in orbit in 2009. Even though his Government's outer space activities were peaceful, in exercise of its sovereign

right as a State party to the Outer Space Treaty, the launch of its second satellite had regrettably been unjustifiably condemned as a ballistic-missile launch, leading the Security Council to impose selective and coercive sanctions. The moving force behind that action had been the hostile policy of the United States of America against his country.

47. Over the years, international concern had arisen over acts that jeopardized the peaceful use of outer space, such as the development by the United States of America of a missile defence system in combination with a satellite installed in outer space. Touted as a response to an alleged threat of ballistic missiles from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea or other countries, its real aim was to realize a dream of world hegemony. It was telling that the resolution calling for transparency and confidence-building in outer space activities was regularly adopted by the General Assembly with the support of the overwhelming majority of Member States, the sole exception being the United States. The General Assembly resolutions calling for the prevention of the military use of outer space and encouraging its peaceful use should be unconditionally implemented by all Member States.

48. **Mr. Khoritinski** (Ukraine) said that while space-based systems were being used in such areas as agriculture, land use, water resource management and disaster management, there should be a greater reliance on space-based observations to mitigate climate change. The spin-offs of space technology were a powerful engine for technological innovation and growth in both the industrial and service sectors and could help achieve social and humanitarian objectives and develop national communications infrastructures and other projects that would promote sustainable development.

49. COPUOS should continue to plan for a fourth United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. There had been steady progress in the past year in implementing the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, but more voluntary contributions were needed from States and organizations to keep it in operation.

50. Ukraine's national space programme for the period 2008-2012 used Earth observations and space data to address the most important sustainable development issues and envisaged the launching of a national satellite telecommunications system. As a participant in commercial space projects, Ukraine was aware of the dangers of the uncontrolled proliferation of rocket and missile technologies, and adhered strictly to its treaty obligations in that respect. Peace in outer space would be safeguarded by greater transparency, information sharing and compliance with international space law. Ukraine supported the main principles of the proposed European Union code of conduct for outer space activities.

51. The possibility of using satellites in medium-Earth orbit to improve international satellite-aided search and rescue operations should be explored. His Government fully supported the workplan of UN-SPIDER for 2010-2011. In that connection, a UN-SPIDER regional support office had recently been opened in Kyiv.

52. It was important to provide non-discriminatory access to the remote-sensing data, at a reasonable cost and in a timely manner. Information and technologies should be shared between countries through bilateral, regional and international collaborative projects. Ukraine was studying how aerospace data could be used in environmental protection, sustainable development and security. It was also doing research on the problem of space debris and was using, modernizing and designing its own space launch vehicles taking into account the recommendations of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee. The problem was most acute in low-Earth orbits. There should be further discussion on the establishment under United Nations auspices of an international platform of data and information on objects in outer space, and best practices and technical norms for space operations should be codified. Moreover, the exploitation of the geostationary orbit should be rationalized and access to it made available to all States, irrespective of their technical capabilities.

53. More States and intergovernmental organizations should adhere to the United Nations treaties on outer space in order to broaden the legal basis for space activities; at the same time, international space law had to be improved in order to be effective in addressing contemporary space activities in areas such as the definition and delimitation of outer space, the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and the threat posed by space debris. A new, comprehensive convention on space law would be desirable.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

United Nations A/C.4/65/SR.9

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Summary record of the 9th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 13 October 2010, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Chipaziwa ..... (Zimbabwe)

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Agenda item 50: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 50: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (A/65/20 and A/C.4/65/L.2) (*continued*)

1. **Mr. González Aninat** (Chile) described the enormous assistance his Government had received, enabling it to achieve the extraordinary technological, human and humanitarian feat of rescuing the miners trapped in the San José mine in Chile. The United States of America, experts from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the United Nations and, especially, the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), together with other organizations and friendly countries, had demonstrated the often overlooked spin-offs of space technology, which had saved the lives of people who had been practically abandoned 700 metres underground. He expressed his sincere gratitude to all those who had collaborated in the rescue and reiterated Chile's commitment to ensuring that all countries benefited, without discrimination, from the peaceful uses of outer space.

2. **Mr. Prunariu** (Romania), speaking as Chairperson of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), recalled that for half a century the Committee had witnessed and been at the centre of humankind's amazing exploration and utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes, and its efforts to bring the benefits of space technology to Earth in order to ensure sustainable development for all countries. At its very first meeting as a permanent body, in 1961, the Committee had adopted the text that would become General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI), a seminal text that had laid the foundation for international space law, made the United Nations a focal point for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and also established the need for registration of space objects.

3. COPUOS could now look back at a successful first decade of the twenty-first century. It had aligned many of its activities with the Millennium Development Goals, and the implementation of the recommendations of the third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) had been one of its central efforts, leading to the establishment of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) and the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER). UN-SPIDER was becoming an essential mechanism and a strong tool for better coordination of disaster management and emergency response the world over, especially after the establishment of regional support offices in several countries, the latest being China.

4. Space tools were indispensable in other areas closely interlinked with disasters, such as climate change, food security and global health, and COPUOS had worked to increase awareness and build capacity in many of those critical areas. It now had an opportunity to look more closely into how advanced space research and technologies could contribute to addressing specific concerns such as clean energy and drinking water, the management of natural resources, tele-education and tele-health applications and capacity-building, and how research in human space flight, especially through the International Space Station, could be made an even stronger tool for development.

5. Introducing the report of the Committee on its fifty-third session (A/65/20), he said that in the past year, COPUOS had continued its consideration of the important agenda items discussed in sections II.E to J of the report, several of which related directly or indirectly to the work carried out by the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, the only United Nations-wide coordination mechanism for space-related activities. It had also continued to contribute actively to thematic clusters under the work programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

6. The Committee's Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Legal Subcommittee had worked jointly on promoting national implementation of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee's interaction with the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) was evolving, and its work with the International Atomic Energy Agency had resulted in the adoption of the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space. The Subcommittee's Working Group on Near-Earth Objects was making progress on the issue of defending the Earth from the threat of asteroids. The Subcommittee's new agenda item on the International Space Weather Initiative had allowed it to focus on the wide-ranging and variable impact of space weather especially on

communication and transport. The Subcommittee had also continued to consider the latest developments in the field of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) and their economic and social benefits. For its part, ICG had proven to be an important platform for international cooperation in achieving interoperability among GNSS providers.

7. The Legal Subcommittee was currently reviewing national space legislation and regulatory frameworks for space activities, as well as international space law governing exploration activities relating to the Moon and other celestial bodies.

8. The major space-related mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific region, Africa and the Americas were providing platforms for enhanced coordination and cooperation between spacefaring nations and emerging space nations and establishing partnerships between users and providers of space-based services. The regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations were, with the support of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, doing commendable work; and a basic course on space law to be offered by the regional centres was currently being devised by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in cooperation with expert educators and the directors of the regional centres.

9. **Mr. Assaraf** (Israel) said that the Israel Space Agency was contributing to the peaceful use of outer space by promoting innovative scientific projects based on international collaboration, since that was the best way to achieve significant advances and create technological breakthroughs. It had signed cooperation agreements with eight countries and would conclude similar agreement in the near future with four other countries. Israel was also currently negotiating a framework agreement to join the European Space Agency.

10. Israel had officially entered the space age with the launch of its first satellite in September 1988; it continued to emphasize its technological advantages in certain niches, notably small sophisticated satellites and satellite-based technologies such as remote sensing. In recent years, the Israeli space industry had continued to expand its links with foreign partners and had sought to advance a number of projects that would benefit the international community at large. Israel and France, for instance, were cooperating on an innovative project using an observation microsatellite that produced highly accurate data on the impact of environmental factors and human activities on land surface and would help optimize agriculture and aquaculture. Israel also had a special partnership with NASA, which it had maintained even after its joint mission on the Columbia shuttle had, after producing valuable data, ended in tragedy. Israel had recently joined the NASA Lunar Science Institute and would carry out joint scientific undertakings, including the establishment of an infrastructure to facilitate virtual collaboration. Israel had also begun to work closely with Italy's space agency with which it had cooperated successfully in the multispectral field.

11. The Israeli private sector was also a significant contributor to the space industry, and included a number of companies that produced space products. Their activities included providing rural communication services to remote communities in a number of countries and, in the field of space electro-optics, developing an advanced hyper-spectral system. An Israeli company had launched its third communication satellite in 2008 and in 2011 would launch a fourth satellite that would provide coverage to most of the Middle East and East Central Europe and a bridge to North America. Israel eagerly looked forward to expanding its space cooperation and sharing its experience with even more States and providing access to outer space for countries without the ability to do so independently.

12. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan), noting that international spaceship crews were still using Kazakhstan's Baikonur complex, from which the first cosmonaut had been launched, said that her Government was implementing a national outer space programme, in line with COPUOS guidelines and recommendations, for the period 2010-2020. Space data was essential for managing water resources, preventing and dealing with emergency situations, especially in developing countries, monitoring the environment and further developing a global navigation satellite system. The benefits of using aerospace science and technology applications to advance global development should be more widely publicized, and the Inter-Agency Meeting on Space Activities should expand its activities. The Fourth Committee itself should give high priority to the consideration of ways and means to preserve outer space for peaceful uses alone. Her Government called on all Member States, especially those possessing high

potential for exploring outer space, to take active steps to prevent an arms race there, in order to preserve it for the enrichment of humankind and the planet.

13. **Mr. Mabhongo** (South Africa) noted the immense potential of the peaceful use of outer space for contributing to worldwide sustainable development, in terms of economic growth, poverty reduction and the creation of knowledge. That goal underpinned South Africa's new space policy and would guide its national space agency, which was expected to be fully operational in 2011. Its first national satellite had been launched from Kazakhstan as a secondary payload to the Russian Federation's Soyuz rocket. South Africa had also built a radio telescope array that in April 2010 had produced the very first interferometric image of an astronomical object.

14. The development of space programmes required cooperation at the regional and international levels. Together with Kenya, Nigeria and Algeria, under the auspices of the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, South Africa was, working on a constellation of low-Earth orbiting satellites; that cooperation was a major feat for the African space industry that would expand the continent's technological capacity. At the global level, South Africa was helping to develop international norms for the use of outer space that would allow all States, and not simply the wealthier and currently spacefaring States, to benefit from its use. The principles of fairness, equal access and non-discrimination were of crucial importance. Within COPUOS, his delegation had stressed the importance of capacity-building, including the development of human resources; it would be chairing the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee's Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. South Africa had also offered to host a UN-SPIDER regional office and was making preparations for hosting the International Astronautical Congress in 2011, the first time that it would meet in Africa.

15. **Mr. Sahraei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his Government was aware of the substantial contribution of satellite applications to the well-being of mankind and to the socio-economic development of all countries, but recalled that space activities should be carried out in a manner compatible with the sovereign rights of States, including the principle of non-intervention in internal affairs. It reiterated the need for further international cooperation for the peaceful uses of outer space, and expressed concern over the likelihood of an arms race in outer space, which required greater international awareness and preventive efforts. As the common heritage of mankind, outer space must be explored and utilized for exclusively peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all mankind, in a spirit of cooperation and without discrimination.

16. Under the Iranian space programme, three new satellites had been brought into operation and would be launched by a new domestic satellite launch vehicle in the near future. A domestically manufactured sounding rocket had been successfully launched in February 2010 and had produced interesting research results. In addition, in November 2009, his Government had hosted a joint workshop with the United Nations on the role of international space law in the development and strengthening of international and regional cooperation in the peaceful exploration of outer space.

17. Given his country's location in a disaster-prone area, his Government had always supported the work of UN-SPIDER. In June 2009, a cooperation agreement had been signed on the establishment of a regional support office in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

18. **Mr. Sayeed** (India), reviewing his country's significant space achievements in the past year, said that its polar satellite launch vehicle had placed its OCEANSAT-2 in orbit, carrying equipment from Italy and producing data that would be shared with international space agencies for their operational applications. It had also launched another six international nano-satellites, and satellites from Algeria and Canada. Another Indian satellite, with many international payloads including one from the United States of America, had been instrumental in conclusively establishing the presence of water and hydroxyl molecules on the lunar surface; and in a unique joint experiment with NASA, the satellite was searching for additional information on the possibility of the existence of ice on the Moon. In order to study the longest annular solar eclipse of the Millennium, in January 2010, India had launched 11 sounding rockets in two days.

19. In the coming months, the Indian space research organization planned to augment its constellation of remote-sensing and communications satellites, to be used for natural resource management, tropical

atmospheric studies and ocean surface studies. A heavier class of launch vehicle capable of launching communications satellites into a geostationary transfer orbit had also been developed. The emphasis of the Indian space programme had always been on integrating advances in space technology and applications with national development goals, particularly in such vital areas as telecommunications, television broadcasting, meteorology, disaster warning and natural resources survey and management.

20. As part of its international cooperation in space activities, India had entered into agreements with Argentina, the Republic of Korea and Saudi Arabia for various peaceful uses of outer space, and was establishing a user terminal in Papua New Guinea to receive multispectral Earth observation data. It was participating actively in the initiatives of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, providing weather radar technology to the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, and sharing disaster-management satellite data with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. It was also actively participating in the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and some of its projects, and had chaired several technical committees in that field. India continued to offer support to help build the capacity of the developing countries to avail themselves of space technology applications. The United Nations-affiliated Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and the Pacific was operating from India. Lastly, the Indian space programme was entering into a space exploration phase, mainly to explore the Sun and the inner solar system and build capabilities for exploring the outer solar system.

21. **Mr. Jomaa** (Tunisia) said that his delegation attached great importance to the peaceful uses of outer space and was very pleased that COPUOS had accepted its application for membership and had included a recommendation to that effect in its report. His delegation looked forward to playing an active and effective role in the work of that Committee.

22. In pursuit of the benefits to economic and social development that space technology had to offer, Tunisia had established a national committee on outer space and a national centre on remote sensing, and was playing an important role in the Arabsat satellite project. Moreover, it had participated in various scientific congresses relating to the work of the International Astronautical Federation, the International Academy of Astronautics and the International Institute of Space Law.

23. The report prepared by COPUOS, in document A/65/20, reflected the number and diversity of fields affected by the peaceful uses of outer space. Communication satellites and remote sensing technologies had already demonstrated their value to humanity in a context of climate change and challenges arising in connection with natural resources, including water in particular. Tunisia intended to do its utmost to support the international community's efforts to develop peaceful uses of outer space in the service of development in various areas, including that of natural hazards and disasters.

24. **Mr. Aigner** (Austria) said that during the devastating natural disasters of the previous year in Haiti and Chile, the use of space-based technologies offered by UN-SPIDER had been invaluable in supporting early warning as well as effective relief and rehabilitation efforts, and had helped communities at risk by linking the disaster management community with the space community. Austria had provided considerable financial and human resources to UN-SPIDER ever since its inception; his Government encouraged other Member States to make voluntary commitments, including financial support, to enable UN-SPIDER to carry out its ambitious workplan. The SpaceAid framework enabled crucial high-quality imagery to be provided immediately after a disaster; Austria supported the establishment of a SpaceAid account to cover the cost of accessing the requisite information to support specific emergency situations.

25. Austria was in the process of developing national space legislation as a prerequisite for sustainable outer space activities; it would be launching its first satellite in 2011. As one of the States that had ratified all five United Nations treaties on outer space, Austria urged others to do so and, in particular, to become parties to the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, which was lagging behind. The Legal Subcommittee had taken up important issues such as space debris, commercialization of the space sector and nuclear power sources; these issues needed to be further addressed with a view to strengthening existing legal regimes and considering the need for new regimes.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.